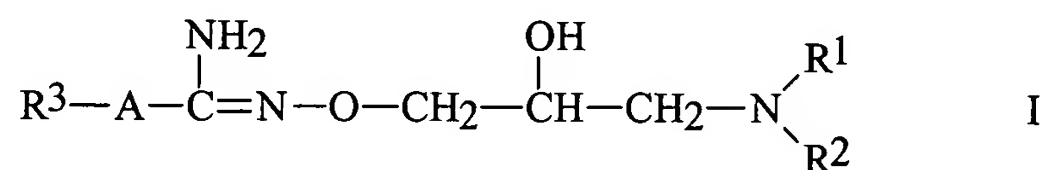


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for preventing ~~or treating~~ actinic keratosis comprising applying to the affected skin surface an amount of a composition effective for preventing ~~or treating~~ actinic keratosis, said composition comprising a hydroximic acid derivative of the formula



wherein

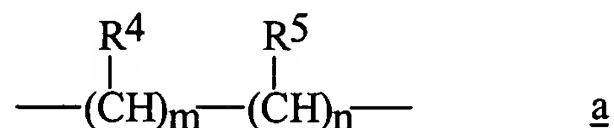
R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-5} alkyl group;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-5} alkyl group, a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group or a phenyl group, optionally substituted by a hydroxy group or a phenyl group; or

R^1 and R^2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5 to 8 membered saturated or unsaturated ring that optionally comprises one or more further nitrogen or oxygen atoms, wherein said ring can be optionally condensed with a benzene ring;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group or a pyridyl group wherein said groups can optionally be substituted by one or more halo atoms or C_{1-4} alkoxy groups;

A is a group of the formula



wherein

R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

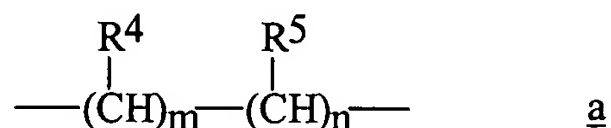
R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2; and

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2;

or a physiologically acceptable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein in the compound of the formula (I) R^1 and R^2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a piperidino group, R^3 is a pyridyl or a phenyl group, A represents a group of the formula a,



wherein

R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a phenyl group;

and m and n have a value of 0.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula (I) is O-(3-piperidino-2-hydroxy-1-propyl)nicotinic amidoxime or an acid salt thereof.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is present at 0.1 to 30% by mass of the composition.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is present at 5 to 15% by mass of the composition.

6. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the active ingredient is present at 5 to 15% by mass of the composition.

7. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the active ingredient is present at 5 to 15% by mass of the composition.

8 - 14. (canceled)